

---

[All Articles](#)

[Newspaper Coverage](#)

---

11-8-1954

## 54/11/08 Dr. Sam Directs Own Defense

Cleveland Press

Follow this and additional works at: [https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper\\_coverage](https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper_coverage)

[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

---

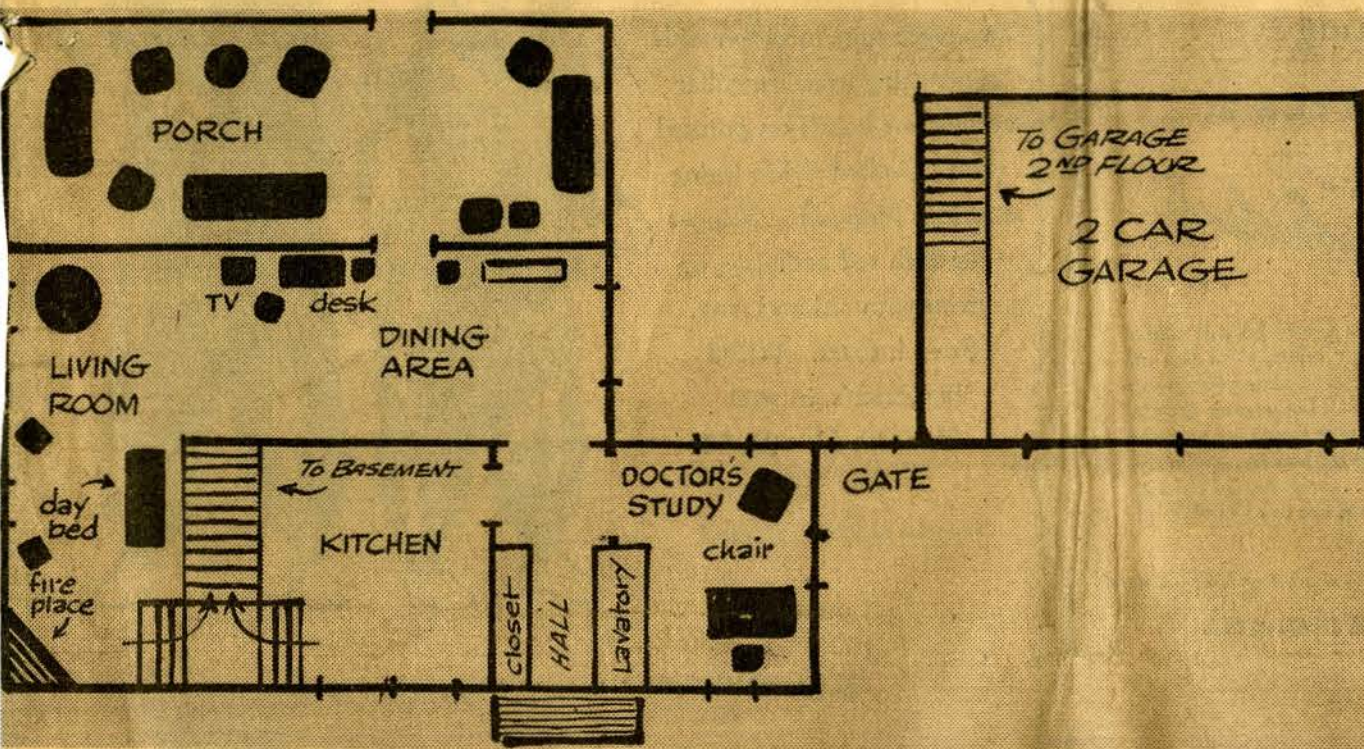
### Recommended Citation

Cleveland Press, "54/11/08 Dr. Sam Directs Own Defense" (1954). *All Articles*. 376.

[https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper\\_coverage/376](https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper_coverage/376)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Newspaper Coverage at EngagedScholarship@CSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in All Articles by an authorized administrator of EngagedScholarship@CSU. For more information, please contact [library.es@csuohio.edu](mailto:library.es@csuohio.edu).

# DR. SAM DIRECTS OWN DEFENSE



**PROSECUTION DIAGRAM** of murder home will aid jurors in following testimony at Dr. Sam Sheppard's trial. Here is a sketch showing proportions of rooms and placement of furniture in Bay Village house of tragedy.



# Coaches Corrigan on Quiz of Adelson

Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard astounded his courtroom audience today by virtually taking command of his own defense.

The 30-year-old osteopath, who previously had sobbed at mention of his murdered wife's injuries, coached Chief Defense Counsel William J. Corrigan's detailed quizzing of the deputy coroner who performed the July 4 autopsy on the slaying victim.

Dr. Sam and Corrigan patted each other on the back in apparent pleasure at the course of questioning of Dr. Lester Adelson.

This was during a recess which followed Corrigan's interrogation of Dr. Adelson about what he had done with Mrs. Sheppard's unborn child.

Dr. Adelson said the four-month embryo was "in a jar of preservative" at the coroner's office.

**Q.: The baby of Sam Sheppard is out there in the Morgue in a bottle, isn't it?**

**A.: Yes, sir.**

"That's all," Corrigan snapped.

But, after his recess huddle with the defendant, Corrigan asked permission to address more questions to Dr. Adelson who was challenged on his knowledge of medicine and human anatomy.

Dr. Sam fired a running stream of suggestions at Corrigan as the white-haired defense chief sought to discredit the prosecution's lead-off witness.

## Steve Joins Fray

The defendant's brother, Dr. Stephen Sheppard, joined the fray. He moved to the counsel table to confer with William H. Corrigan, the chief counsel's son.

When Assistant Prosecutor Thomas Parrino protested, young Corrigan and Dr. Stephen went together to a back bench. Dr. Stephen wrote out several questions, including: "Was she sexually assaulted?"

At one point, while Corrigan was quizzing Dr. Adelson, Dr. Sam moved to another chair at the defense table and whispered into the ear of Fred W. Garmone, associate counsel.

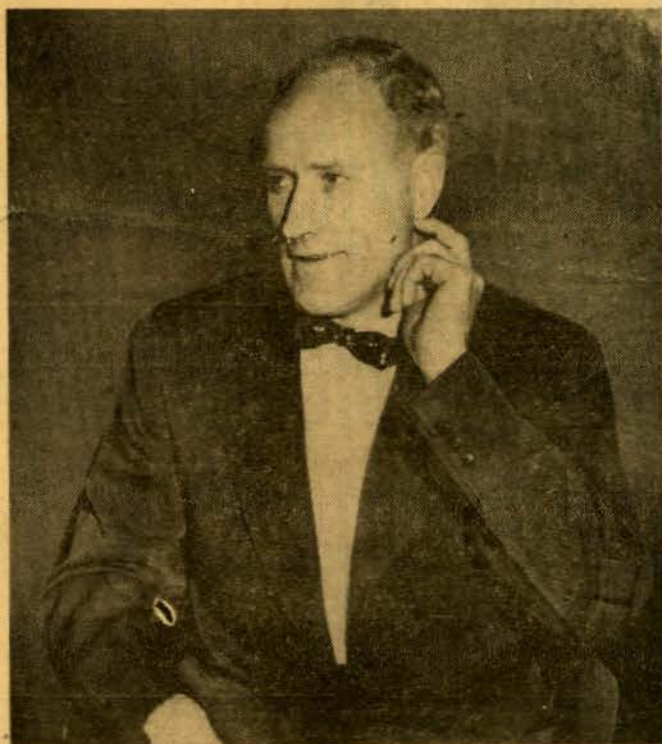
It was plain that the defendant was calling the signals as Corrigan continued for the second day's cross-examination of Dr. Adelson in trying to prove:

**THAT THE AUTOPSY** was sloppy and inadequate.

**THAT THE DEPUTY CORONER** didn't know what he was talking about.

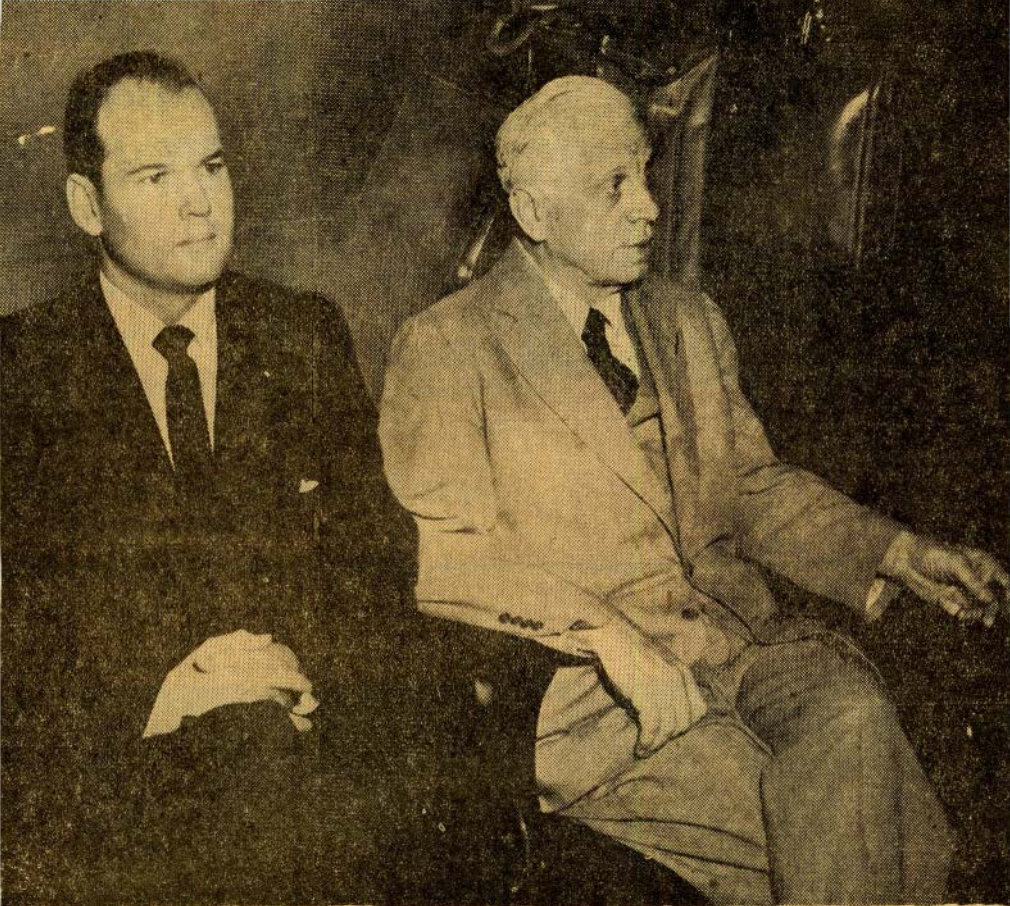
**THAT NUMEROUS POSSIBILITIES**—such as that Mrs. Sheppard may have choked to death, that each of her 35 wounds might not have been caused by a separate blow of the missing murder weapon, and others—had not been investigated by Dr. Adelson.

Judge Edward Blythin interrupted when Corrigan



**SECOND STATE'S WITNESS.** Don Ahern was scheduled to tell the jury about Marilyn Sheppard's last evening alive.





**WAITING FOR PROSECUTOR** to appear in court and get the fourth week of the Sheppard trial under way today, Dr. Sam Sheppard sat quietly with his chief counsel, William J. Corrigan.



# Dr. Sam Directs Own Defense as Deputy Coroner Is Quizzed

Continued From Page One

tossed in a question he asked last Friday—"Did you hear a story that the doctor went crazy when he discovered his wife was pregnant and killed her?"—and quoted only a portion of Dr. Adelson's reply that he had not.

Blythin said this technique was "unfair."

Corrigan demanded an apology.

Blythin refused to withdraw his comment.

The judge sustained a prosecution objection when Corrigan accused Dr. Adelson of insisting, when he said a frontal suture and coronal suture are the same thing, that "six and eight are 19."

"I am going to demonstrate that the doctor is wrong," Corrigan declared. "He doesn't know his anatomy."

## Uses Medical Book

The attorney produced a medical book, and proceeded to question the witness from it while Dr. Sam nodded approvingly.

Assistant Prosecutor John J. Mahon insisted that the defense was going far afield in its cross-examination of Dr. Adelson. The sole issue, Mahon said, is that Marilyn Sheppard was murdered — how was it done, and who did it.

When Dr. Adelson steps down from the witness stand after the longest cross-examination ever directed at a deputy coroner in Cuyahoga County,

the mystery of the missing T-shirt will be injected into the trial.

The seven-man, five-woman jury will hear about the vanished garment in the testimony of Mr. and Mrs. Don Ahern, the last friends who saw Marilyn Sheppard alive.

They spent the afternoon and evening of July 3 with Sam and Marilyn Sheppard.

Ahern, an official of National Returnacar Inc., and of Aircem of Northern Ohio, an industrial odor counteracting firm, was scheduled to be the second prosecution witness. Mrs. Ahern will follow him.

## Dr. Sam Satisfied

As the trial entered its fourth week, Dr. Sam expressed complete satisfaction with the manner in which Corrigan is conducting his case.

He gave his chief advocate numerous brief explanations of such medical matters as how a spinal tap is made and how a head is sawed open in surgery.

Dr. Sam showed great interest but little emotion as the wife he described as "the only woman I ever loved or will love" was verbally dissected in the vigorous cross-examination.

Corrigan frequently drew prosecution objections by attempting to cut off Dr. Adelson's answers.

Mahon, in his re-direct examination of the deputy coroner, permitted Dr. Adelson to explain that many possible examinations, which Corrigan had brought out were not made, were not considered necessary.

No examination had been made to determine whether Mrs. Sheppard was poisoned.

"She died because she was beaten to death," Dr. Adelson testified.

The defense, too, hoped to make an important point through Ahern and his wife, Nancy—that Sam and Marilyn Sheppard were a happy, care-free couple on the eve of Marilyn's murder; that there were no quarrels or cross words, and that they cuddled together in the same chair.

## T-Shirt in Testimony

Both Aherns have testified that Dr. Sam, who was dozing on a downstairs couch when they left the Sheppard home at 12:30 a. m. on the murder morning, was wearing a white T-shirt at the time.

Mrs. Ahern, scheduled to follow her husband in the witness chair, recalled that Dr. Sam was wearing a brown corduroy jacket. She said she locked the Sheppard door leading to the beach before leaving the house.

When Bay Village Mayor J. Spencer Houk and his wife, Esther, arrived at the house about 6 a. m., summoned by Dr. Sam's frantic phone call, they found the osteopath without any shirt on.

The T-shirt had vanished, the jacket was folded on the edge of the couch and the lake door was unlocked.

## Houk to Be a Witness

Houk, one-time close friend of Dr. Sam, will be the next witness after the Aherns. He is not expected to testify until tomorrow.

It will be the suburban butcher-mayor's first public appearance as a witness in the case since Dr. Stephen Sheppard, brother of the defendant, antagonized him by insisting that Houk be investigated as a "suspect."

Mahon sent word for another of Sam's friends at whom Dr. Stephen pointed an accusing finger to fly here from California "toward the end of the week"—to appear as a prosecution witness.

This "friend" is Dr. Lester T. Hoversten, who was a house guest of the Sheppards for three days prior to Marilyn's death.

Summoning Dr. Hoversten indicated the prosecution is

hopeful the trial will be speeded up. Hoversten and Susan Hayes, Dr. Sam's West Coast romantic companion, are among the last witnesses on the state's list.

Judge Blythin said the trial would be recessed Thursday, which is Veterans' Day, a legal holiday.

## Get Keys to Home

Mahon said the keys to the murder home at 28924 Lake Rd., Bay Village, from which members of the Sheppard family have been barred since July 4, would be turned over to them soon.

"We wanted the house preserved in its original condition until the jury could view it," Mahon said. "That has been accomplished. There is no further need to keep the premises impounded as evidence."